Staff Memorandum

To	Mayor A. Nuttall and Members of Council
Subject	Allandale Station Park Revitalization Update
Date	April 22, 2026
Ward	8
From	M. Banfield, RPP, Executive Director of Development Services
Executive Member Approval	M. Banfield, RPP, Executive Director of Development Services
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning the progress of the conceptual plan development for the creation of a passive waterfront park in Allandale Station Park and the future steps including a planned community engagement process.

On October 23, 2024, staff received direction through motion 24-G-223 WATERFRONT PUBLIC CONSULTATION FEEDBACK as follows:

“That Development Services staff prepare a design concept to locate a passive park east of the General John Hayter Southshore Community Centre to include a minimum of 2 acres of grass cut area, to allow for overflow parking for historical events that will occur on the property and accessible walkways through the naturalized area and report back to General Committee with the concept and costing.”

In preparation of the conceptual plans for the revitalization of the park, staff referred to the 2023 Council approved Waterfront Strategic Plan Update (WPSU) to guide the internal conceptual design process. The overall conceptual development was directed by the three guiding pillars of the WSPU - inclusive, resilient and activated and built upon the specific recommendations included in *Appendix C – Activity Centres Along the Waterfront* that are specific to the redevelopment of Allandale Station Park.

In addition, staff took into consideration the vision and the list of items for discussion included in the South Shore Eco Park Task Force (Draft) Discussion Paper for Allandale Station Park, as attached in Appendix A, dated September 24, 2024, that was submitted to the City.

Staff have prepared two preliminary concepts, as attached in Appendix B, that will be used to guide the future community-wide engagement process and the development of a final conceptual plan for Council approval in 2027. A short description of the central themes of each concept is included below:

Concept 1: Ecological Explorers – Focus on the Science of Nature

- Maximizes access to nature through accessible trails and a new lookout
- Supports science-based discovery and interpretation aligned with Bird City and Bee City initiatives
- Enhances biodiversity through revegetation, expanded tree canopy, invasive species reduction and increased native plantings
- Stabilizes the shoreline
- Creates opportunities to incorporate Indigenous knowledge of the natural environment
- Establishes clear park boundaries with gateway signage, edge treatments and wayfinding
- Provides an accessible, four-season waterfront park experience, including the approved seasonal mowing zone

Concept 2: Outer Nature Meets Inner Nature – Integration of Science and Culture

- Increases slope stabilization and provides improved water access through a passive watercraft launch, storage and dock
- Expands science and cultural interpretation through public art, digital storytelling and historical signage
- Balances vegetation management to enhance ecological function while supporting public use, including the seasonal mowing zone
- Creates greater opportunities for Indigenous knowledge and cultural expression
- Supports community participation through planting initiatives, environmental monitoring, small gatherings, ceremonies and programming
- Establishes a distinct waterfront park identity with enhanced gateways, unique site furnishings, accessible nature-therapy trails and hubs, small-scale programming and a custom cantilevered lookout over Kempenfelt Bay

Staff will submit a Capital Intake Form for the 2027–2036 Capital Plan to retain a professional landscape architectural firm to lead the park master planning and undertake comprehensive community consultation. Engagement will include key stakeholders such as Nature Barrie, the South Shore Eco Park Task Force and Indigenous communities.

Subject to 2027 budget approval, staff anticipate reporting back to Council in late 2027 with the community engagement results, a preferred concept, and associated capital and operating cost estimates.

Appendix:

Appendix A - South Shore Eco Park Task Force (Draft) Discussion Paper for Allandale Station Park
Appendix B – Allandale Station Park Revitalization Concepts

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